

Senate Bill No. 567

CHAPTER 675

An act to amend Sections 12810 and 27361 of, and to amend, repeal, and add Sections 27360, 27360.5, 27363, 27363.5, and 27365 of, the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

[Approved by Governor September 24, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 26, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 567, Speier. Vehicles: child passenger restraint system: seatbelts.

(1) Under existing law, it is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined, to permit his or her child or ward who is less than 4 years of age or weighs less than 40 pounds to be transported on the highway in the vehicle without using a specified child passenger restraint system. Existing law specifies the fines for a violation of this prohibition, provides for the allocation of those fines that are collected in accordance with a specific schedule, and provides that the fines may be waived by the court if the defendant establishes that he or she is economically disadvantaged.

This bill, instead, would require any parent or legal guardian to secure the child or ward in that child passenger restraint system unless the child or ward is at least one of the following: 6 years of age or older or weighs 60 pounds or more. In addition, the bill would increase the fines for violating this provision.

The bill, in addition to the authority to waive the fines, would authorize the court to reduce the fines with respect to persons not previously convicted of the offense or the offense described in (2) below or persons convicted of second or subsequent offenses, as specified. The bill would require persons subject to a reduced or waived fine to attend and complete an education program, and would allow the court to require other persons convicted of the offense to attend the education program. The bill would make certain conforming changes.

(2) Under existing law, it is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined, to permit his or her child or ward who is between 4 and 16 years of age and weighs 40 pounds or more to be transported on the highway in the vehicle without using a safety belt.

This bill, instead, would prohibit a parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, from allowing his or her child or ward from being transported upon a highway without providing and

properly using a child passenger restraint system or a safety belt if the child is 6 years of age but less than 16 years of age or is less than 6 years of age and weighs 60 pounds or more. The bill would authorize the court to reduce or waive the fine upon a second or subsequent conviction if the defendant establishes that he or she is economically disadvantaged and the court refers the defendant to an educational program, except as specified. The bill would allow the court to order any person who is convicted of violating the above to attend the educational program. The bill would also require fines collected for violating this prohibition to be allocated in accordance with a specified schedule. Because this would increase the duties imposed on local entities, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) Existing law exempts from the requirements described in (1) and (2) above regarding the use of seatbelts and child passenger restraint systems on children, instances involving the transportation of children in emergencies.

This bill would limit the exemption to life-threatening emergencies and to children who are at least one year of age. The bill would thereby expand the scope of existing crimes, and would create a state-mandated local program.

The bill would make a corresponding change.

(4) Existing law authorizes a court to exempt from the child passenger restraint system requirements any child for whom it is determined that the use of the system would be impractical by reason of physical unfitness, medical condition, or size. The court is authorized to require proof of those conditions.

This bill, additionally, would authorize the court to require proof that an appropriate special needs child passenger restraint system is not available.

The bill would authorize a child weighing more than 40 pounds to be transported in the backseat of a vehicle while wearing only a lap safety belt when the backseat of the vehicle is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder safety belt.

(5) Under existing law, every public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center, is required, at the time of or before the discharge of a child under the age of 4 years, or weighing less than 40 pounds, to provide and discuss information on the law requiring child passenger restraint systems to the parents or the person to whom the child is released.

This bill would recast this requirement to require the information to be provided at the time of discharge of a child 6 years of age or less or weighing less than 60 pounds.

(6) The provisions of this bill revising the age and weight components described above would become operative on January 1, 2002.

(7) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 12810 of the Vehicle Code proposed by SB 1403, to become operative only if both bills are enacted and become operative on or before January 1, 2001, and this bill is enacted last.

(8) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12810 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

12810. In determining the violation point count, the following shall apply:

(a) Any conviction of failure to stop in the event of an accident in violation of Section 20001 or 20002 shall be given a value of two points.

(b) Any conviction of a violation of Section 23152 or 23153 shall be given a value of two points.

(c) Any conviction of reckless driving shall be given a value of two points.

(d) (1) Any conviction of a violation of subdivision (c) of Section 192 of the Penal Code, or of Section 2800.2 or 2800.3, subdivision (b) of Section 21651, subdivision (b) of Section 22348, subdivision (a) of Section 23109, subdivision (c) of Section 23109, or Section 31602 of this code, shall be given a value of two points.

(2) Any conviction of a violation of subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 23140 shall be given a value of two points.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (g), any other traffic conviction involving the safe operation of a motor vehicle upon the highway shall be given a value of one point.

(f) Any traffic accident in which the operator is deemed by the department to be responsible shall be given a value of one point.

(g) (1) A violation of paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 40001 shall not result in a violation point count being given to the driver if the driver is not the owner of the vehicle.

(2) Any conviction of a violation of subdivision (a) of Section 21116, Section 21207.5, 21708, 21710, 21716, 23120, 24800, or 26707 shall not be given a violation point count.

(3) A violation of Section 23136 shall not result in a violation point count.

(h) A conviction for only one violation arising from one occasion of arrest or citation shall be counted in determining the violation point count for the purposes of this section.

(i) Any conviction of a violation of Section 14601, 14601.1, 14601.2, 14601.3, or 14601.5 shall be given a value of two points.

(j) Any conviction of a violation of Section 27360 or 27360.5 shall be given a value of one point.

SEC. 2. Section 12810 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

12810. In determining the violation point count, the following shall apply:

(a) Any conviction of failure to stop in the event of an accident in violation of Section 20001 or 20002 shall be given a value of two points.

(b) Any conviction of a violation of Section 23152 or 23153 shall be given a value of two points.

(c) Any conviction of reckless driving shall be given a value of two points.

(d) (1) Any conviction of a violation of subdivision (c) of Section 192 of the Penal Code, or of Section 2800.2 or 2800.3, subdivision (b) of Section 21651, subdivision (b) of Section 22348, subdivision (a) of Section 23109, subdivision (c) of Section 23109, or Section 31602 of this code, shall be given a value of two points.

(2) Any conviction of a violation of subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 23140 shall be given a value of two points.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (g), any other traffic conviction involving the safe operation of a motor vehicle upon the highway shall be given a value of one point.

(f) Any traffic accident in which the operator is deemed by the department to be responsible shall be given a value of one point.

(g) (1) A violation of paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 40001 shall not result in a violation point count being given to the driver if the driver is not the owner of the vehicle.

(2) Any conviction of a violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 12814.6, subdivision (a) of Section 21116, Section 21207.5, 21708, 21710, 21716, 23120, 24800, or 26707 shall not be given a violation point count.

(3) A violation of Section 23136 shall not result in a violation point count.

(h) A conviction for only one violation arising from one occasion of arrest or citation shall be counted in determining the violation point count for the purposes of this section.

(i) Any conviction of a violation of Section 14601, 14601.1, 14601.2, 14601.3, or 14601.5 shall be given a value of two points.

(j) Any conviction of a violation of Section 27360 or 27360.5 shall be given a value of one point.

SEC. 3. Section 27360 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27360. (a) No parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, shall permit his or her child or ward under the age of four years, regardless of weight, or weighing less than 40 pounds, regardless of age, to be transported upon a highway in the motor vehicle without providing and properly using, for each child or ward, a child passenger restraint system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(b) No driver shall transport on a highway any child under four years of age, regardless of weight, or weighing less than 40 pounds, regardless of age, in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, without providing and properly securing the child in a child passenger restraint system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. This subdivision does not apply to a driver if the parent or legal guardian of the child is also present in the vehicle and is not the driver.

(c) (1) A first offense under this section is punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged and the court, instead, refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803. The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(2) A second or subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), no part of which may be waived by the court, except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages,



and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803.

The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fines collected for a violation of this section shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Sixty percent to health departments of local jurisdictions, as defined in Section 16700 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, where the violation occurred, to be used for a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, demonstration of the installation of a child passenger restraint system for children of all ages and also assists economically disadvantaged families in obtaining those restraint systems through low-cost purchases or loans. The county or city health department shall designate a coordinator to facilitate the creation of a special account and to develop a relationship with the court system to facilitate the transfer of funds to the program. The county or city may contract for the implementation of the program. Prior to obtaining a child passenger restraint system pursuant to this section, a person shall attend an education program that includes demonstration of the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems.

As the proceeds from fines become available, county or city health departments shall prepare and maintain a listing of all child passenger restraint low-cost purchase or loaner programs in their counties or cities, including a semiannual verification that all programs listed are in existence. Each county or city shall forward the listing to the Office of Traffic Safety in the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the courts, birthing centers, community child health and disability prevention programs, county clinics, prenatal clinics, women, infants, and children programs, and county hospitals in that county, who shall make the listing available to the public. The Office of Traffic Safety shall maintain a listing of all of the programs in the state.

(2) Twenty-five percent to the county or city for the administration of the program.

(3) Fifteen percent to the city, to be deposited in its general fund except that, if the violation occurred in an unincorporated area, this

amount shall be allocated to the county for purposes of paragraph (1).

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 4. Section 27360 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27360. (a) No parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, shall permit his or her child or ward to be transported upon a highway in the motor vehicle without providing and properly securing the child or ward, in a child passenger restraint system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards unless the child or ward is at least one of the following:

- (1) Six years of age or older.
- (2) Weighs 60 pounds or more.

(b) No driver shall transport on a highway any child in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, without providing and properly securing the child in a child passenger restraint system meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards unless the child is at least one of the following:

- (1) Six years of age or older.
- (2) Weighs 60 pounds or more.

This subdivision does not apply to a driver if the parent or legal guardian of the child is also present in the vehicle and is not the driver.

(c) (1) A first offense under this section is punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead, refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803.

The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(2) A second or subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), no part of which may be waived by the court, except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803.

The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fines collected for a violation of this section shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Sixty percent to health departments of local jurisdictions, as defined in Section 16700 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, where the violation occurred, to be used for a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, demonstration of the installation of a child passenger restraint system for children of all ages and also assists economically disadvantaged families in obtaining those restraint systems through low-cost purchases or loans. The county or city health department shall designate a coordinator to facilitate the creation of a special account and to develop a relationship with the municipal court system to facilitate the transfer of funds to the program. The county or city may contract for the implementation of the program. Prior to obtaining possession of a child passenger restraint system pursuant to this section, a person shall attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems.

As the proceeds from fines become available, county or city health departments shall prepare and maintain a listing of all child passenger restraint low-cost purchase or loaner programs in their counties, including a semiannual verification that all programs listed are in existence. Each county or city shall forward the listing to the Office of Traffic Safety in the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the courts, birthing centers, community child health and disability prevention programs, county clinics, prenatal clinics,



women, infants, and children programs, and county hospitals in that county, who shall make the listing available to the public. The Office of Traffic Safety shall maintain a listing of all of the programs in the state.

(2) Twenty-five percent to the county or city for the administration of the program.

(3) Fifteen percent to the city, to be deposited in its general fund except that, if the violation occurred in an unincorporated area, this amount shall be allocated to the county for purposes of paragraph (1).

(e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2002.

SEC. 5. Section 27360.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27360.5. (a) No parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, shall permit his or her child or ward who is four years of age or older but less than 16 years of age and weighs 40 pounds or more to be transported upon a highway in the motor vehicle without providing and properly securing the child or ward in an appropriate child restraint system or safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(b) No driver shall transport on a highway any child who is four years of age or older but less than 16 years of age and weighs 40 pounds or more in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, without providing and properly securing the child in a child passenger restraint system or safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. This subdivision does not apply to a driver if the parent or legal guardian of the child is also present in the vehicle and is not the driver.

(c) (1) A first offense under this section is punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged and the court, instead, refers the defendant to a child restraint education program that includes, but is not limited to, demonstration of the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides economically disadvantaged families with a child passenger restraint low-cost purchase or loaner program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program that includes an inspection of a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803. The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant punishable under this paragraph to attend and education program

that includes demonstration of the proper use of occupant restraint systems for children of all ages.

(2) A second or subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), no part of which may be waived by the court, except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803. The court may at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fines collected for a violation of this section shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Sixty percent to county or city health departments where the violation occurred, to be used for an education program that includes, but is not limited to, the demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages and provides child restraints for loan or low-cost purchase.

(2) Twenty-five percent to the county or city for the administration of the program.

(3) Fifteen percent to the city, to be deposited in its general fund except that, if the violation occurred in an unincorporated area, this amount shall be allocated to the county for purposes of paragraph (1).

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 6. Section 27360.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27360.5. (a) No parent or legal guardian, when present in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, may permit his or her child or ward who is six years of age, but less than 16 years of age, or who is less than six years of age and weighs 60 pounds or more to be transported upon a highway in the motor vehicle without providing and properly securing the child or ward in an appropriate child

passenger restraint system or safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

(b) No driver may transport on a highway any child who is six years of age, but less than 16 years of age, or who is less than six years of age and weighs 60 pounds or more in a motor vehicle, as defined in Section 27315, without providing and properly securing the child in a child passenger restraint system or safety belt meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards. This subdivision does not apply to a driver if the parent or legal guardian of the child is also present in the vehicle and is not the driver.

(c) (1) A first offense under this section is punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100), except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead, refers the defendant to a child restraint education program that includes, but is not limited to, demonstration of the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides economically disadvantaged families with a child passenger restraint low-cost purchase or loaner program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program that includes an inspection of a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803.

The court may, at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(2) A second or subsequent offense under this section is punishable by a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250), no part of which may be waived by the court, except that the court may reduce or waive the fine if the defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the court that he or she is economically disadvantaged, and the court, instead refers the defendant to a community education program that includes, but is not limited to, education on the proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages, and provides certification to the court of completion of that program. Upon completion of the program, the defendant shall provide proof of participation in the program. If an education program on the proper installation and use of a child passenger restraint system is not available within 50 miles of the residence of the defendant, the



requirement to participate in that program shall be waived. If the fine is paid, waived, or reduced, the court shall report the conviction to the department pursuant to Section 1803.

The court may at its discretion, require any defendant described under this section to attend an education program that includes demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems and provides certification to the court that the defendant has presented for inspection a child passenger restraint system that meets applicable federal safety standards.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fines collected for a violation of this section shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Sixty percent to county or city health departments where the violation occurred, to be used for an education program that includes, but is not limited to, the demonstration of proper installation and use of child passenger restraint systems for children of all ages and provides child restraints for loan or low-cost purchase.

(2) Twenty-five percent to the county or city for the administration of the program.

(3) Fifteen percent to the city, to be deposited in its general fund except that, if the violation occurred in an unincorporated area, this amount shall be allocated to the county for purposes of paragraph (1).

(e) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2001.

SEC. 7. Section 27361 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27361. Any law enforcement officer reasonably suspecting a violation of Section 27360 or 27360.5, or both of those sections, may stop any vehicle transporting a child appearing to the officer to be within the age or weight specified in Section 27360 or 27360.5. The officer may issue a notice to appear for a violation of Section 27360.

SEC. 8. Section 27363 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27363. (a) The court may exempt from the requirements of this article any class of child by age, weight, or size if it is determined that the use of a child passenger restraint system would be impractical by reason of physical unfitness, medical condition, or size and that an appropriate special needs child passenger restraint system is not available. The court may require satisfactory proof of the child's physical unfitness, medical condition, or size.

(b) In case of a life-threatening emergency, or when a child is being transported in an authorized emergency vehicle, if there is no child passenger restraint system available and the child is at least one year of age, a child may be transported without the use of such a system, but the child shall be secured by a seat belt.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 9. Section 27363 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27363. (a) The court may exempt from the requirements of this article any class of child by age, weight, or size if it is determined that the use of a child passenger restraint system would be impractical by reason of physical unfitness, medical condition, or size. The court may require satisfactory proof of the child's physical unfitness, medical condition, or size and that an appropriate special needs child passenger restraint system is not available.

(b) In case of a life-threatening emergency, or when a child is being transported in an authorized emergency vehicle, if there is no child passenger restraint system available and the child is at least one year of age, a child may be transported without the use of that system, but the child shall be secured by a seatbelt.

(c) A child weighing more than 40 pounds may be transported in the backseat of a vehicle while wearing only a lap safety belt when the backseat of the vehicle is not equipped with a combination lap and shoulder safety belt.

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2002.

SEC. 10. Section 27363.5 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27363.5. (a) Every public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center, shall, at the time of or before the discharge of a child under the age of four years, or weighing less than 40 pounds, provide and discuss information on the law requiring child passenger restraint systems to the parents or the person to whom the child is released.

(b) A public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center shall not be responsible for the failure of the parent or person to whom the child is released to use a child passenger restraint system.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 11. Section 27363.5 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27363.5. (a) Every public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center, shall, at the time of the discharge of a child provide and discuss information on the current law requiring child passenger restraint systems to the parents or the person to whom the child is released when at least one of the following conditions is met:

(1) The child is less than six years of age.

(2) The child weighs less than 60 pounds.

(b) A public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center shall not be responsible for the failure of the parent or person to whom the child is released to use a child passenger restraint system.

(c) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2002.

SEC. 12. Section 27365 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

27365. (a) (1) Every car rental agency in California shall inform each of its customers of the provisions of Section 27360 by posting, in a place conspicuous to the public in each established place of business of the agency, a notice not smaller than 15 inches by 20 inches which states the following:

“CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4, REGARDLESS OF WEIGHT, OR WEIGHING LESS THAN 40 POUNDS, REGARDLESS OF AGE, TO BE TRANSPORTED IN A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM. THIS AGENCY IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR RENTAL A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM YOURSELF.”

(2) The posted notice specified in paragraph (1) is not required if the car rental agency’s place of business is located in a hotel which has a business policy prohibiting the posting of signs or notices in any area of the hotel. In that case, a car rental agency shall furnish a written notice to each customer which contains the same information as required for the posted notice.

(b) Every car rental agency in California shall have available for, and shall, upon request, provide for rental to, adults traveling with children under the age of four, regardless of weight, or weighing less than 40 pounds, regardless of age, child passenger seat restraint systems meeting applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards on the date of the rental transaction, in good and safe condition, with no missing original parts, and not older than five years.

(c) A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

(d) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2002, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2002, deletes or extends that date.

SEC. 13. Section 27365 is added to the Vehicle Code, to read:

27365. (a) (1) Every car rental agency in California shall inform each of its customers of the provisions of Section 27360 by posting, in a place conspicuous to the public in each established place of business of the agency, a notice not smaller than 15 inches by 20 inches which states the following: “CALIFORNIA LAW REQUIRES ALL CHILDREN WHO ARE 5 YEARS OF AGE OR LESS OR WHO WEIGH LESS THAN 60 POUNDS TO BE TRANSPORTED IN A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM. THIS AGENCY IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR RENTAL A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM YOURSELF.”

(2) The posted notice specified in paragraph (1) is not required if the car rental agency’s place of business is located in a hotel which has a business policy prohibiting the posting of signs or notices in any area of the hotel. In that case, a car rental agency shall furnish a written notice to each customer which contains the same information as required for the posted notice.

(b) Every car rental agency in California shall have available for, and shall, upon request, provide for rental to, adults traveling with children under seven years of age, child passenger seat restraint

systems that meet applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards on the date of the rental transaction, are in good and safe condition, with no missing original parts, and are not older than five years.

(c) A violation of this section is an infraction punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100).

(d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2002.

SEC. 14. Section 2 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 12810 of the Vehicle Code proposed by both this bill and SB 1403. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2001, (2) each bill amends Section 12810 of the Vehicle Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 1403, in which case Section 1 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 15. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution for certain costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district because in that regard this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

However, notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.

